TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

A3275-2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1992 -- Railroad freight traffic is outperforming the economy as a whole in 1992, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

"Excluding coal traffic -- down 2.5 percent both for the week ended May 23 and for the first 21 weeks of 1992 -- railroad traffic is running ahead of the consensus forecasts for growth in the economy, expected to be between two and three percent in 1992," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department.

Dr. Levine noted that "non-coal carload traffic was up 4.8 percent in the most recent week and is up by 5.1 percent so far this year. Intermodal, which is not included in carloadings, is up even more, 12 percent in the week ended May 23 and 8.9 percent for the first 21 weeks. Ton-miles were up 4.0 percent last week and are up 5.0 percent for the year."

During the week ended May 23, strong gains were registered in loadings of motor vehicles and equipment (14.8 percent), chemicals (8.1 percent) and metallic ores (9.0 percent). Carloadings were up 4.4 percent in the East and down 0.4 percent in the West.

Railroads reporting to the AAR are responsible for 94 percent of rail carloads and 97 percent of intermodal traffic.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 1992	SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	21,006	21,646	-3.0 %	21,694	-3.2 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,259	1,789	26.3	2,327	-2.9
Metallic Ores	19,536	17,916	9.0	20,454	-4.5
Coal	124,782	127,924	-2.5	122,942	1.5
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,802	14,395	2.8	14,121	4.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,607	9,143	5.1	9,140	5.1
Grain Mill Products	9,743	10,447	-6.7	9,926	-1.8
Food & Kindred Products	9,277	9,205	0.8	9,383	-1.1
Primary Forest Products	9,718	9,074	7.1	9,457	2.8
Lumber & Wood Products	6,255	6,374	-1.9	6,081	2.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,719	10,368	3.4	10,126	5.9
Chemicals	29,911	27,675	8.1	30,511	-2.0
Petroleum Products	5,819	4,993	16.5	5,732	1.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,228	9,475	7.9	9,915	3.2
Coke	5,917	4,960	19.3	5,428	9.0
Metals & Products	9,431	9,901	-4.7	10,309	-8.5
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	20,419	17,786	14.8	20,765	-1.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,118	8,286	10.0	9,333	-2.3
All Other Carloads	7,456	7,725	-3.5	7,069	5.5
Total	336,003	329,082	2.1 %	334,713	0.4 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 21 WEEKS ENDING MAY 23, 1992		
TRAFFIC	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	336,003	329,082	2.1 %	6,768,908	6,608,930	2.4 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	66,159	60,469	9.4	1,289,511	1,237,630	4.2
Containers	63,393	55,176	14.9	1,313,499	1,153,249	13.9
Total	129,552	115,645	12.0	2,603,010	2,390,879	8.9
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	20.8	20.0	4.0 %	429.2	408.6	5.0 %

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